

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 L-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7048
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1828

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRD, US, UR

SUBJECT: CHEBOKSARY TRACTOR PLANT CONTRACTS

DEPT PASS COMMERCE FOR BEWT/TDAD AND USSR
VIENNA FOR EWTC

1. METALLURGIMPORT VICE-CHAIRMAN N.S. ZAYTSEV TOLD BEWT/TDAD'S PLANAGAN AND COMMOFF FEBRUARY 10 THAT HIS FTO WILL HONOR CONTRACTS SIGNED WITH ALL US FIRMS TO PROVIDE MACHINERY AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CHEBOKSARY TRACTOR PLANT DESPITE NON-AVAILABILITY OF EXIM FINANCING. AFFECTED CONTRACTS TOTAL SOME DOLS 50 MILLION.

2. US SUPPLIERS HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM SINCE PASAGE OF TRADE BILL, FOR CHEBOKSARY CONTRACTS CONTAIN CLAUSE BRINGING THEM INTO FORCE ON DATE EXIM EXTENDED CREDITS. CONFIRMING EARLIER ORAL ASSURANCES TO HERMAN COPR., ZAYTSEV SAID METALLURGIMPORT WOULD DELETE THIS CLAUSE WITHOUT REQUIRING OTHER CHANGES IN CONTRACT. HE INDICATED FTO WOULD FORMALLY COMMUNICATE WITH US SUPPLIES ABOUT THIS MATTER "IN NEAR FUTURE."

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY REGARDS METALLURGIMPORT DECISION ON CHEBOKSARY CONTRACTS AS ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT SOVIETS INTEND GO AHEAD ON PENDING PROJECTS WITH US FIRMS DESPITE ABSENCE OF EXIM FINANCING. UNDER CONTRACTS, METALLURGIMPORT WOULD HAVE BEEN
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WITHIN ITS RIGHTS IN ABROGATING AGREEMENTS SINCE AVAILABILITY OF

EXIM FINANCING WAS CONDITION FOR IMPLEMENTATION.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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